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Amendments to the Drawings

The drawing sheet encompassing Figure 4 has been amended to label the panels in the drawings as A and B, as suggested by the Examiner.

No new matter is added by these amendments.

A Replacement Drawing Sheet for Figure 4 is attached hereto after page 8.

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Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in the present application.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 have been amended.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's helpful suggestions for placing the application in form for allowance provided in an e-mail dated April 26, 2006. In response to the Examiner's comments, the application has been amended as follows.

Amendments to the Specification.

The title of the invention has been changed to "NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASES" to better reflect the subject matter of the present claims.

A new abstract has been provided, which does not refer to sequence identifier numbers.

The specification has also been amended to add sequence identifier numbers, where appropriate. A replacement sequence listing will be forwarded under separate cover.

Drawing Figure 4 has been amended by adding labels A and B for the panels in the Figure. A replacement drawing sheet is attached hereto. In addition, the description of Figure 4 in the Brief Description of the Drawings has been amended to reflect the changes in the drawings. The description of Figure 9 in the Brief Description of the Drawings also has been amended to describe both panels of Figure 9 (i.e., Figure 9A and Figure 9B). Support for the description of Figure 9 is found in the specification at page 30, lines 9-20.

No new matter is added by the amendments to the specification.

Amendments to the Claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify highly stringent conditions for hybridization of the nucleic acid, in which the highly stringent conditions include washing the nucleic acid molecule in 0.1 x saline-sodium citrate (SSC)/ 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) at a temperature of 50 °C. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 12, lines 3-5.

Claims 3, 4, and 7 have been amended to correct a minor informality by changing the phrase "A nucleic acid" to read "The nucleic acid" in each claim.

Claim 6 has been amended to change the phrase "A fragment" to read "The fragment".

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Claim 8 has been amended to change the phrase "a vector" to read "the vector".

No new matter is added by these amendments.


Information Disclosure Statement.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

An early favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

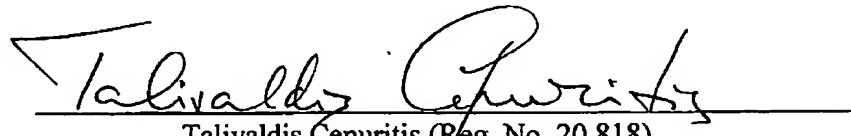
Dated: May 5, 2006

By: 
Talivaldis Cepuritis (Reg. No. 20,818)

OLSON & HIERL, LTD.
20 North Wacker Drive
36th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 580-1180

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT and the accompanying Replacement Drawing Sheet referred to therein are being transmitted by facsimile transmission to Fax No. 571-273-8300 on May 5, 2006.


Talivaldis Cepuritis (Reg. No. 20,818)